

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application identified in caption as amended, pursuant to and consistent with the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claims 6, 7, and 12 have been amended and claims 2, 15, and 31 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-14, and 16-30 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 1, 3-14, and 16-30 have been indicated as being allowed.

The rejection of claims 2, 15, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

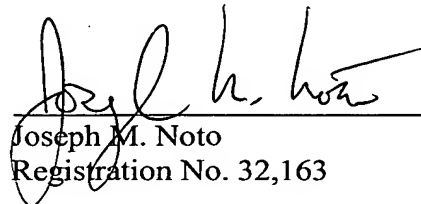
Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to provide proper claim dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 2.

Claim 12 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5-17-04



Joseph M. Noto
Registration No. 32,163

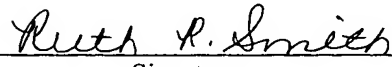
NIXON PEABODY LLP
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, New York 14603-1051
Telephone: (585) 263-1601
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
- ☐ transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) _____.

May 17, 2004
Date



Signature

Ruth R. Smith
Type or Print Name